

THE CURRENT SAUCE



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APRIL



The face behind Vic bids farewell to NSU

BY NINA OVALLE

Following the mascot change, Northwestern State University of Louisiana's president, Marcus Jones, reveals himself as the face behind Vic the Demon.

NSU's mascot was established in 1923 via an open contest to submit mascot ideas. Students and faculty of NSU suggested several ideas with the popular vote ruling between the Braves and the Demons. The presidential committee then narrowed down the options to officially name all NSU athletic teams the Demons.

Later in 1984, another contest opened to give a name to NSU's Demon mascot. Over 300 entries from students and faculty were submitted with the winner being Ray Carney, alumnus of NSU, with a name short for the word "Victory": Vic the Demon.

Since the beginning vote and Vic's initial creation, members of the Natchitoches community have protested the idea of a Demon mascot. Via social media or word of mouth, community members have alluded to claims that NSU supports demonic morals.

Karen Smith, Natchitoches community member you can typically find asking for the manager at Chili's, expresses her contest to the Demon mascot.

"I've always hated that name, have said that for years," Smith said. "I do not like the mascot and refuse to purchase anything that is related to Northwestern because of the awful mascot."

Smith had no further suggestions for alternative mascots.

"If I don't like it then I don't like it, I shouldn't have to think about it, Demons are bad," Smith said. John Smith, Karen's lawyer husband who's still married to her solely due to fear of their prenup, was dragged to the interview to express his opinion.

"Karen told me to tell you that if she

doesn't want the mascot to be a Demon then that needs to be changed and I support whatever she wants," Smith said.

Kaylen Anthony, current student of NSU, shares his opinion on the Demon controversy.

"People always say 'Change it' this, 'Demons are bad' that, but then they never say what it should be instead or have a valid reason, hush up really quick," Anthony said.

Rebecca Thompson, recent alumnus of NSU, addressed the religious perspective of the controversy.

"I understand the religious context so I can see where people are coming from but not everything needs to be made religious," Thompson said. "I'm a Christian but I still love my cutie patootie Vic, how could you not?"

Thompson expressed her love for Vic a little too deeply, almost a concerning amount, but remained valid.

"I just love, love, love him, I genuinely don't know what I'd do without him, he's my everything, Vic deserves all the warmth and light of this world," Thompson said.

Thompson quickly snapped back to reality and shared a normal liking to Vic.

"Until we see NSU actually doing anything demonic then I'd like to hear just one person explain what makes Vic demonic," Thompson said. "If you have a problem with the mascot being a demon then mind your business and don't go to the school." After years of facing this controversy, NSU has officially changed its mascot from the Demons to the Northwestern State Tweety Birds.

Anthony shares his opinion on NSU's new mascot, the Tweety Bird.

"What y'all expect? Y'all thought we would get something better than my

boy Vic? Nah, now look at you.. a tweety bird," Anthony said.

President Jones speaks on his farewell to Vic the Demon.

"Now that we are no longer the Demons, I feel as though it's only right for students to know the truth, yes, it was me behind the mask," Jones said.

He expands on the details of living a double life as President by day and Mascot by another day.

"It was definitely quite a bit to handle at times, especially when it came to keeping it a secret," Jones said. "Being in that suit, taking pictures with prospective students, running across the field at football games, stuff like that, the memories made it all worth it."

After dedicating so much to Vic, President Jones shares an understanding that the choice to remove NSU's Demon mascot was in the best interest of the institution.

"I put a lot of energy into Vic so of course I'll always have a special place in my heart for him, but this was a decision made by the institution, for the institution to strengthen our community," Jones said.

President Jones explains the process which the administration went through to change the NSU Mascot.

"Well, it was a decision that was never made, NSU is not and never should be the tweety birds," Jones said. "This is an April Fools article so Happy April Fools NSU and as always, Fork em' Demons!"

This article was such a pleasure to write but please remain informed that all quotes are loosely based on Facebook posts and previous conversations. All information and people mentioned in this article are not real or were not actually interviewed. I hope you enjoyed and Happy April Fools!



Graphic by Samantha Caballero
After dedicating so much to Vic, President Jones shares an understanding that the choice to remove NSU's Demon mascot was in the best interest of the institution.



Photo by Madelyn Murphy.
Daddy long legs are harmless creatures with unique features.

NEW Daddy Long Leg Preservation club strives to preserve daddy long legs within their club

BY MADELYN MURPHY

The spring season is a sign of renewal and life. The grass is green, the flowers bloom and little creatures walk, crawl or fly around.

At Northwestern State University of Louisiana, students have not been appreciating the environment which surrounds them. They complain about the number of insects surrounding them, such as june bugs, mosquitos and especially daddy-longlegs.

Because of the recent complaints and talks about the abundance of daddy-longlegs on campus, some students and faculty began to worry that people may be killing them solely because they were bothered. With this, they formed a new club dedicated to preserving the lives of these insects.

“You don’t just go around killing innocent people, so I just don’t understand why you would go around killing innocent daddy-longlegs,” sophomore with a major in dance and a minor in biology, Paxton Davis said.

Members of the Daddy-Longlegs Preservation club find killing the insects to be inhumane.

“The other day, my roommate killed one with a fly swatter,” Davis said. “I just don’t understand the lack of sympathy he has for the precious little guys.”

Not only do members of the club find daddy-longlegs to be cute creatures, but they also recognize that these creatures are completely harmless.

“Their mouths are so small that they can’t even bite humans,” Jack Colb, a senior with a major in accounting, said. “I don’t get why everyone finds them so scary; they are just eensy weensy insects.”

It is proven that daddy-longlegs do not harm people or their environment. Working to preserve the lives of the insects, the daddy-longlegs preservation club members are sure to go out of their way to bring the insects to safety, especially when stranded in dorm rooms and hunted by students.

“Every time I see someone talking badly about a daddy-longlegs that is hanging around them, I let them crawl on my arm and take a ride on my shoulder until they reach safety,” Colb said. “You just never know what someone might do; talking about how the bugs annoy them will quickly escalate to them plotting the insects’ deaths.”

Helping the club spread awareness about the harmless creatures, professor Nick Taylor volunteered to be the club’s advisor. He explained why he wanted to help the club members out.

“They’re such alluring, mesmerizing valuable creatures,” Taylor said. “I couldn’t just continue to let people kill them.”

To prevent more students from killing daddy-longlegs, Taylor is working with NSU TV to record a special that accentuates the unique features of daddy-longlegs. This way, when students see and understand the gentle nature of the bugs, they will be encouraged to save

the daddy-longlegs rather than kill them out of frustration.

“It’s time we get together to save the lives of these guys,” Taylor said. “This can start as a simple gesture such as giving a daddy-longlegs a ride in your car or even just letting them relax in your dorm room while you study.”

On April 1 at 5 p.m., join Davis, Colb, Taylor and the rest of the club at the culinary arts annex to celebrate the long lives of daddy-longlegs by preparing well-deserved meals for the bugs in need of a home.

If no one is there, it’s because this is a fake story. Nothing above was true or real. Happy April Fool’s Day!



A friendly Daddy Long Leg comes along for a nice ride in Nick Taylor’s car, appearing on the inside of his window.

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The Current Sauce is the official student-run newspaper for Northwestern State University. The content and stories within the paper may not necessarily reflect the views of administration, faculty and staff.

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Newsletter Sign up

Join The Current Sauce’s weekly newsletter: Dose of Sauce. Each Friday at 1 p.m., the newsletter will feature the stories posted in the past week and highlight photos and things happening around campus. Use the link below to sign up or use the link on our Instagram bio!

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Student athletes shared good luck rituals they believe in

BY CHRISTIAN ROBINSON V



Graphic by Christian Robinson. Athletes wear socks from previous games for good luck.

Good luck rituals are common in sports with players and fans believing they have superstitions. Fans of sports teams believe that talking about a player’s injuries is a cause of bad luck and can lead them to injury, or claiming to be champion before the season is a curse for your team.

Players are no exception, as players from major sports all have their own rituals they do before a game. Some say prayers or even hand signs before the game with teammates. Players do everything to get ahead in the game.

But what are some good luck rituals that Northwestern State University of Louisiana athletes do before games to make themselves have some luck on gameday?

Bailey Bledsoe, sophomore tennis player and sports media major, said her secret good luck pregame ritual before games is very weird and something she hopes doesn’t affect her relationship with teammates. “Honestly, I hate that I do this, but it relaxes me and is something that helps me with games,” Bledsoe said. “I like to wear my socks from the last game unwashed and it helps me a lot.” Bledsoe explains how it keeps her focused on the game and reminds her of her last, and is set to remind her of the mistakes she made and how to correct them. She compares it to a tattoo you get when you are younger that you regret. “You know how you get a tattoo when you’re young and see it now and you’re like OMG I am so stupid why did I get that,” Bledsoe said. “The socks are the same for me because I look back at

them and I remember every mistake from previous games.” Sometimes good luck rituals can be small things like listening to a certain song or wearing a favorite piece of clothing that comforts you. Dillion Doher, senior point guard and photography major, explained how he likes to listen to audio podcasts to Joe Rogan Show during stretches pregame and how he enjoys his soothing voice and the funny conversations he has. “The only thing that I do during pregame is listen to Joe Rogan Show podcasts and calm myself down before a game. His voice is just so calming for me, and I don’t know why but his voice is the thing that calms my nerves down,” Doher said. Tiana Tarver, junior tennis player and biology major, talks about how she loves to eat pineapple pizza from Dominos the day before every game. “I eat a pepperoni and pineapple pizza from Dominoes every single day before the game to treat myself. I know I am supposed to watch what I eat because I am an athlete, but I feel like you need something to motivate yourself before the game,” Tarver said. She explains that it is a reward for the week of training that she did to prepare for the game. Tarver says she thinks of the meal as self-motivation before having to get back on the athlete diet that the team nutritionist plans for her. She adds how she thinks that it gives her energy to burn for the game, so the weight never stays forever. “You only live once right so even though I am looking to do this professionally I feel like I need to enjoy the young life and body I have. You never know when you are going to lose it,” Tarver said. Student athletes’ good luck rituals are something that keeps them motivated or even calms the nerves of not only games and workouts, they also help them in the classroom. This also applies to studying even though there may not be a correlation to the good luck rituals and winning games. These athletes will continue these routines to keep their hope alive and give them some comfort in the rough sports they participate and compete in to edge out the competition. While Good Luck Rituals may help athletes, these rituals are fake with fake interviews. Happy April Fool’s Day!

NSU’s frisbee team championship win uncovers scandal

BY KALLIE BOURGEOIS



Photo by Kallie Bourgeois
NSU’s Frisbee Team faced injury but came out victorious at the 2024 Southland Conference Frisbee Championship.

Northwestern State University of Louisiana’s ultimate frisbee team won the 2024 Southern Collegiate Ultimate Frisbee Championship but the celebration was cut short due to injury.

At the championships, last week at Springfield, Missouri, ultimate frisbee head coach Philip Waters suffered a concussion after an incident involving two freshman Demon athletes.

Elijah Tucker, junior psychology major and handler for the ultimate frisbee team, recalled the events that took place after the celebration.

“Brian and Tyler were just playing around with a frisbee after the win, just throwing it back and forth,” Tucker said. “Then Brian threw it a little too hard in coach Green’s direction and it gave him a black eye.”

Tucker addressed the speculation

growing throughout the NSU and Natchitoches community.

“I’ve been hearing the gossip lately, I was at Storybrew getting coffee after my run and I heard an old couple saying it wasn’t an accident,” Tucker said. “Honestly, I don’t know what to think. Brian had a little resentment towards the coach because of his lack of playing time.”

Tyler Hawthorne, freshman criminal justice major, shared his perspective from the incident.

“I’m so sorry that coach got injured, we should’ve never been reckless,” Hawthorne said. “I will run however many miles as he wants for punishment.”

Brian Rushing, freshman business major, refused to address the rumors. However, Brain’s mother, Amanda Rushing, explained that these rumors are false and stands strong with her son.

“My little snuggle bug would never injure his coach,” Amanda said. “It’s outrageous that the community would think that my baby would be capable of such evil!”

The mother also addressed her son’s known past anger issues during his high school ultimate frisbee career.

“Yes, my son does have anger issues, but he wouldn’t intentionally hurt his coach,” Amanda said.

Coach Waters addressed the rumors and the future of the team in a press conference on Monday, April 1.

“The rumors are false, I personally did not suffer any injury of any kind,” Waters said. “It was my identical twin, Peyton, who was hit in the head with a frisbee that day.”

With more questions rising within the Natchitoches community, many are left to speculate what that truth is. Why was head coach Waters’ twin posing as the coach that day? Does Brian have unresolved anger issues? When did

NSU suddenly gain an ultimate frisbee team?

At this moment Peyton Waters has chosen to not speak out about why he was attending the game that day and why he was posing as his brother.

Happy April Fools! All events, people and scandals that are mentioned above are fake. All the information and people mentioned in this article are not real or were not actually interviewed.

The Current Sauce announces reopening of Nesom Natatorium on campus

BY DESTIN LOPEZ

Have you ever been on the Northwestern State University of Louisiana campus on a hot, sunny day and just wished you had a place to cool off? Well, you are in luck, because NSU has given The Current Sauce exclusive access to announce that the Nesom Natatorium will be reopening this summer.

The Nesom Natatorium, built in 1938 with the help of the Works Progress Administration, closed in 2012 indefinitely due to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) issues. The Natatorium was named after Guy Nesom, head of the Department of Health and Physical Education and dean of the College of Education.

The process of reopening began when the NSU Fishing Team requested a grant from the Student Government

Association (SGA) to fix the inside paneling and add a wheelchair ramp to the outside of the building. SGA approved the funds, and the NSU Fishing Team started finding contractors to complete the work required to open.

The project is set to be completed shortly after the end of the semester.

"I am really excited to open the pool back up. None of the students at NSU have been able to experience it, and even though I won't be able to fish in it, I think opening it back up will encourage more water sports here," Luke Iles, junior social work major and NSU Fishing Tournament member, said.

With rumors of the Nesom Natatorium opening back up, students have been spreading hopes of NSU creating a competitive swim team.

"I used to be the butterfly champion swimmer at my highschool, so I always had hopes that they would open the pool back up. I can't wait to swim laps at the new pool, if it is finally opening up again," Emily Duckworth, junior mathematics major, said.

With the pool opening up 12 years after its closure, the prestige leaders of NSU came together and agreed that the namesake would need an update. The natatorium will be rededicated to Reatha Cox, and renamed the Cox Natatorium, after the Vice President for the Student Experience's decades of hard work and dedication to NSU and its students.

"I am so glad that the pool is being renamed after Reatha, she does so much for the school and for us students. I just couldn't imagine it being named after anyone else," Xyle Carter, senior

Hospitality Management and Tourism major, said.

The date for the ribbon opening will be announced on The Current Sauce's socials in the upcoming weeks. Students and staff will have access to the pool during their open hours, with the fee for the use being added to the WRAC fee. This year will be the year of changes and better experiences for NSU.

But don't get too happy because this story is fake! Happy April Fool's Day!

Photo by Jayda Gee.
The Natatorium was named after Guy Nesom, head of the Department of Health and Physical Education and dean of the College of Education.

